



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	12-05-02	Interpretation #	02-053
Topic	Fire Dampers		
Code Section(s)	Section 713.11, California Building Code (1998 ed)		
Requested by	Andres Fergadiotti Digital Energy, Inc. 650 Hampshire Road #204 Westlake Village, CA 91361		

1. Section 713.11 of the California Building Code indicates that I have to have a fire damper on “all separation walls or occupancy separations” without any exclusion. What about walls separating bedrooms from bathrooms, bedrooms from a corridor or kitchen etc.? Do I need to install a fire damper in all these cases?

Yes, fire dampers must be installed in any penetration identified in Section 713.11.

2. What occupancy is the code referring to?

This section is applicable for all occupancy groups.

3. What walls need to be fire rated?

The fire ratings for walls are dependent on, and not limited to building design, construction, area, occupancy and proximity to property lines. Review of the California Building Code (1998 edition) will reveal specific requirements for each occupancy group.